Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Fluorescent A fluorescent lamp (1) comprising:

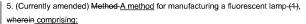
a glass discharge vessel-(2) in which a gas is present, which discharge vessel (2) is on two sides provided with a tubular end portion-(3) having a longitudinal axis, which end portion-(3) includes a glass stem-(5), wherein:

an exhaust tube-(6) extends axially outwardly from-said_the stem-(5) for supplying and/or discharging gases during the production of the lamp-(1),-and wherein

an electrode-(8) extends axially inwardly through the stem-(5) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel-(2),-said the electrode-(8) emprises including two pole wires-(9) held in position by the stem-(5) and connected to plug pins-(11) of an end cap-(13) fixed to-said the end portion-(3), eharacterized in that said and

the end cap (13) is at least substantially made of a shrink material.

- 2. (Currently amended) Fluorescent lamp (1) according to The lamp of claim 1, wherein-said the shrink material is a heat shrink material.
- (Currently amended) Fluorescent lamp (1) according to The lamp of claim 2, wherein-seid the heat shrink material is chosen from the group consisting of PVC, pelyelefin's, polyolefins, nylon-or, and polyester.
- 4. (Currently amended) Fluerescent lamp (1) according to <u>The lamp of claim 2 or 3</u>, wherein-said the heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 80° and 200° C, preferably between 100° and 150° C.



providing a glass discharge (2) vessel is on two sides provided with that includes at least a tubular end portion-(3) having a longitudinal axis, wherein the end portion-(3) is provided with a glass stem-(5), wherein-an electrode (8) is fitted to extend axially inwardly through the stem-(5) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel-(2), wherein-and an exhaust tube-(6) is fitted to extend axially outwardly from-said the stem-(5).

filling the discharge vessel through which the exhaust tube (6) the discharge vessel (2) is filled with a gas, and wherein

connecting two pole wires (9) of said the electrode (8) that are held in position by the stem (5) and are connected to plug pins (11) of an end cap that is made substantially of a shrinkable material, and (13) fixed to said end portion (3), sharesterized in that said

<u>fixing the</u> end cap. (13) is fixed to said to the end portion (3) through by shrinking the end cap, preferably heat shrinking.

- 6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the shrinking includes heat shrinking.
- 7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the end cap is made substantially of a heat shrink material.
- 8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the heat shrink material is chosen from the group consisting of PVC, polyolefins, nylon, and polyester.
- 9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the shrinking is performed at a temperature varying between 80° and 200° C.
- 10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the shrinking is performed at a temperature varying between 100° and 150° C.

- 11. (New) The lamp of claim 2, wherein the heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 100° and 150° C.
- 12. (New) The lamp of claim 3, wherein the heat shrink material is activated at a temperature varying between 100° and 150° C.